

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 22 is added. Therefore, claims 1, 3-14, and 17-22 are pending in this application. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species I, with traverse. At least claims 1, 3-14, 17-20 and 22 read on this species.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Further, by this Amendment, a linking claim is added. Claim 22 is a linking claim for the identified species. Thus, even if claim 21 is withdrawn from further consideration at this time, claim 21 must be rejoined and fully examined upon allowance of linking claim 22.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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